Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

man, and that she has often heard him tell how he had first sighted land to the south of anything then known, of the excitement he was thrown into, and of the desire it aroused in him to go to explore it.

Confirmation of this fact may be had by looking at the portrait of Nathaniel B. Palmer, which is published with this article. The illustration is made from a photograph of Captain Palmer taken about the year 1868 and presented to the writer by Mrs. Loper. In looking at this picture it is impossible not to notice the eyes. If ever a man had an eagle eye, an eye which could see far and see accurately, that man was Captain Palmer. And this goes far to prove that Palmer was entirely truthful in stating that he was the first to see Palmer Land, and to corroborate Fanning's assertion that the name Palmer Land was deservedly given to the northern mainland of West Antarctica.

GEOGRAPHICAL RECORD

THE AMERICAN GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

THE MARCH MEETING OF THE SOCIETY. A regular meeting of the Society was held at the Engineering Societies' Building, No. 29 West Thirty-ninth St., on Tuesday evening, March 21, 1911. Vice-President Greenough in the Chair.

The following persons recommended by the Council were elected to Fellowship:

William F. Bass,
Mrs. William Bucknell,
Benjamin Chew.
S. R. Klein, M.D.,
Howard Townsend Martin,
Frederick Townsend Martin,
Schuyler Schieffelin,
Frank D. Waterman,
Dr. M. B. Williams.

The Chairman then introduced Prof. Arthur Stanley Riggs who addressed the Society on "Sicily and Southern Italy." A large number of stereopticon views were shown. The Society then adjourned.

THE PRESENTATION OF THE CULLUM GEOGRAPHICAL MEDAL TO PROF. DR. HERMANN WAGNER. The presentation of the Cullum Geographical Medal awarded by the American Geographical Society to Prof. Dr. Hermann Wagner, took place in the salon of the American Embassy, Berlin, March 5, 1911, at 5 P. M. Those present were: Prof. Dr. Hermann Wagner; His Excellency, Geheimrat Prof. Dr. A. Wagner; Geheimrat Prof. Dr. Penck; Geheimrat Dr. Hellmann; Prof. Dr. von Luschan; Ministerialdirektor Dr. Th. Lewald; Imperial German Consul H. Freytag.

Invitations had also been sent to the Prussian Cultus-Minister and to Prof. Dr. Karl von den Steinen, who sent letters of regret at their inability to attend.

The Hon. David J. Hill, Ambassador of the United States to Germany, said that he had received from the Secretary of the American Geographical Society a letter requesting him to arrange for the presentation of the medal to Prof. Wagner, whose work in Geography has been of very high rank and is highly appreciated in the United States. The American Geographical Society had voted him the Cullum Geographical Medal in recognition of his distinguished services to geographical science.

In presenting the medal Ambassador Hill spoke of the pleasure it gave him to be the medium of transmitting it on behalf of the American Geographical Society, and he was glad that it could be done in the presence of such distinguished gentlemen as those who had done him the honor to come to the Embassy to assist at the presentation.

The Ambassador said further, that in the United States there existed no rank of nobility, and even if Wagner should live all his life in America, his (the Ambassador's) country could never confer the honor of nobility upon him. And yet there were noblemen in America for wherever men pursue knowledge with devotion and for human good, there were noblemen; and therefore America could confer no higher honor upon Prof. Wagner than it did now, in this recognition of his valuable services to science.

In accepting the gift, Prof. Wagner thanked the Ambassador for the trouble he personally had taken in arranging the presentation and expressed appreciation of the form it had taken, being in a sense solemn and yet at the same time unceremonious. He said he was very pleasantly surprised at being awarded the medal. Though he had never had any direct dealings with the American Geographical Society, he had for many years been in relation with Americans both officials and private persons, in connection with his work. And, with regard to all, he would like on this occasion to express his great appreciation of the courtesy that had always been shown him and his colleagues, especially as regards the promptitude and thoroughness with which all inquiries addressed to the Americans were answered by them and the liberality they evinced in supply of publications.

The Professor named a number of American Institutions to whom he felt indebted in this respect. Dr. Day, of the Geological Survey, had said to him for example: "Dr. Wagner, if ever you want anything of the Geological Survey, just send us two words and you shall have it."

Prof. Wagner was especially gratified that just his class of work had been recognized in this flattering way, for it was a class of work in Geography which he believed had not hitherto found recognition in the United States.

The Professor closed his remarks by once more thanking the Ambassador and saying that he felt that such private acts of international courtesy must serve to bring the nations into closer accord.

He then exhibited the medal to the gentlemen who had assisted at the presentation, and the company retired to the dining-room of the Embassy, where a collation was served.

NORTH AMERICA

Production of Iron Ore, Pig Iron and Steel in the U. S. in 1909. Statistics of the production of iron ore, pig iron, and steel in the United States in 1909, collected by the U. S. Geological Survey and the Bureau of the Census, have just been published by the Survey as an advance chapter, by Ernest F. Burchard, from "Mineral Resources of the United States, Calendar Year 1909." The total quantity of iron ore produced in 1909 was 51,294,271 long tons, valued at $110,290,596 at the mines, as compared with 35,983,336 tons, valued at $81,845,904 in 1908. With the exception of 1907, when the production was 51,720,619 tons, 1909 was the banner year in iron ore production.

Of the iron-producing States Minnesota led as usual, in 1909, with 28,975,-

149 tons, which was more than the total production in the United States in 1900. Michigan came second, producing 11,900,384 tons; Alabama was third, producing 4,321,252 tons; Wisconsin fourth, with 1,067,436 tons; and New York fifth, with 1,015,333 tons. No other State produced as much as a million tons. The production of Cuban iron ore in 1909 was 930,446 long tons, as compared with 819,434 tons in 1908.

The total production of pig iron, including spiegeleisen and ferromanganese, in 1909 was 25,795,471 long tons; and of steel 23,955,021 tons.

GLACIAL ADVANCE IN ALASKA AND EARTHQUAKES. The advance and retreat of glaciers are usually attributed to slight changes in precipitation, or in temperature, or both. It is, therefore, a novel idea to see in earthquake shocks, producing an excess of snow-supply, the cause of glacial advance. In his study of the Yakutat Bay Region, Alaska (U. S. Geol. Survey, Prof. Paper 64, 1909) Prof. Ralph S. Tarr comes to this interesting conclusion. Several of the valley glaciers of the Yakutat Bay Region showed a remarkable advance, "in the nature of a paroxysmal thrust," within ten months preceding June, 1906. Climatic causes fail to give any adequate explanation. The most satisfactory hypothesis is found in a great increase of the snow-supply, due to earthquake shaking in 1899. Great avalanches of snow were, it is believed, then thrown down to the névé, "starting a vigorous wave of advance whose effects have now reached the glaciers." Persons camping near one of the glaciers at the time of the earthquakes reported that they noted the violent shakings and that there were noises like thunder as great avalanches of snow and rock descended the mountain slopes. If this be the true explanation, and the evidence presented seems strongly to favor this hypothesis, then climate was only indirectly responsible for the glacial advances here discussed. R. DEC. WARD.

HISTORY OF THE GRAND CANYON DISTRICT. In Dutton's classical work on the Colorado Canyon district it was inferred that the Colorado River and its tributaries were established before the faults and folds of the plateau region came into existence. At a much later period the displacements came so gradually that the main drainage lines were able to maintain their courses, cutting their channels as fast as uplift occurred across their paths. In other words, the Colorado and its main tributaries were antecedent rivers. Powell had reached the same conclusion in his still earlier work. A few years ago Davis advanced an alternative theory, that the displacements were much older than had previously been supposed and that after they occurred, the region was reduced to a peneplain, over which the Colorado River system extended, the present Canyon being due to the entrenching of the river.

Prof. D. W. Johnson, with a small party, made an expedition in 1906 for the purpose of testing these two rival hypotheses, and in an article (*Proceedings* Boston Society of Natural History, Vol. 34, 1909, pp. 135-161) he gives a detailed statement of his observations and conclusions. There is much painstaking detail in the paper, but the main conclusions of his summer's work are stated in a brief summary in the following words:

"South of the Cañon, in the San Francisco Plateau, displacements are more numerous than has been supposed, although of little importance compared with the great displacements north of the Cañon. The 'crags' of the Echo Cliff probably owe their peculiar form to erosion guided by strongly marked cross-bedding, and possibly in part also to the influence of a well developed system of joints. The Sevier and Toroweap Faults are independent and do not join each other to form one great displacement, as has been thought might be the case. The Hurricane Cliffs in the vicinity of the Virgin River are true fault cliffs wholly due to recent faulting at two different periods. In all, three periods of faulting along the same plane have occurred in that region, the first and second periods being separated from each other by a long era of base-levelling, while the second and third periods were separated by a shorter, but none the less distinct, erosion interval. Observations made along other displacements in the Grand Cañon district confirm the theory that the faults of this district are in the main of ancient date." R. S. TARR.

IMMIGRATION INTO CANADA. The Department of the Interior, Canada, has just printed the "Report on Immigration," (*Annual Report*, 1910, Part II). Of the steerage passengers arriving in the fiscal year 1909-10, 137,442 were for Canada and 36,946 for the United States, bringing the total immigration to 208,794, an increase over the preceding fiscal year of 61,886.

The area of new land placed under wheat in the Spring of 1909 was 20 per cent. in excess of the previous year, with every indication that 1910 would see a similarly increased percentage of wheat acreage, particularly in Saskatchewan and Alberta. The wheat crop in the three prairie provinces in 1909 was 147,000,000 bushels. On March 31, 1909, there were open and available in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, 195,731 homesteads. The new areas surveyed increased the number of homesteads available on March 31, 1910, to 204,545, equal to 32,713,200 acres, one-tenth greater in area than the state of Ohio. There is a vast region in the great northland yet to be surveyed and opened for homestead entry.

Much improvement was noticed in the physique and general character of the immigrants to Canada in 1909 and 1910. The volume of immigration from the United States has increased to an amazing extent and these American settlers bring with them a good physique, a long practical knowledge of western agriculture, a generous supply of stock and implements and in most cases a good sum of cash.

The opening of the Grand Trunk Pacific between Winnipeg and Wolf Creek in Northwestern Alberta, of the Goose Lake branch of the Canadian Northern, and similar extensions in Saskatchewan and Alberta of the Canadian Pacific, have greatly facilitated the settlement of the country. Commissioner J. Bruce Walker says that the day is not far distant when, in the prairie provinces, it will be impossible for any farmer to be more than a few hours distant from the nearest railway depot. It is still very difficult to obtain a sufficient number of harvest hands. One of the results of increased settlement is a serious shortage in the supply of horses and of stock generally. The price of farm horses has risen 40 per cent. in two years and of oxen 25 per cent.

THE FUR SEALS OF BERING SEA. The London *Times* of March 17 says that Russia has accepted the invitation from our Government to take part in a new seal fishing conference at Washington, a few months hence. It is understood that the invitation from our Government to the Government of the United Kingdom to take part in this conference will be accepted. The American agents declare that the seals are now only one-fourth as numerous as at the time of the Paris arbitration when the diminution had already gone far. Meanwhile the Canadian sealing fleet has dwindled almost to nothing and it is affirmed that the Japanese are mainly responsible for the further depletion of the seals. As Japan was not a party to the Paris arbitration, the sixty-mile limit has never applied to the Japanese, and their sealers accordingly ply this trade around both the Russian and American islands right up to the three-mile limit and even some times to the very shore. It is believed that Japan has agreed to take part in the coming conference and there is every reason to hope that an arrangement may be made by which the destruction shall be arrested and the herds gradually restored.

SOUTH AMERICA

THE YALE EXPEDITION TO PERU. Prof. Hiram Bingham of Yale University writes to the *Bulletin:*

"We expect to leave New Haven on June 10 and will be gone until Dec. 18, spending five months in the field doing geographical, archæological and historical exploration. We expect to make a cross section of the Andes through a country that has never been scientifically explored and only mapped in the rudest possible way some fifty years ago. The party will probably consist of a physiographer and geologist, a skilled topographer, an assistant topographer, and possibly a surgeon and naturalist, besides the director.

"There are four problems before us. The first is: How far into the Amazon jungle did the Incas carry their civilization? I am convinced that there are more Inca ruins to be discovered near Choqquequirau, and particularly on the north slopes of the glacier-clad peaks which separate Choqquequirau from the Urubamba Valley. Dr. Forbes, who led the Harvard expedition into Peru three years ago, went down this valley, and confirms my opinion that the region which we propose to enter is one of the most important unexplored archæological fields in Peru. We shall probably spend about two months and a half in this region, doing everything we can to visit any ruins that are reported, particularly in the Vilcabam valley where the last Inca lived after he escaped from the Spaniards.

"The second is: A reconnaissance along the 73d meridian from the Amazon valley to the Ocean, a distance of perhaps 300 miles. This reconnaisance, taking about a month, will include physiography, geology, archæology, etc. The region is an interesting one historically and in it the great Gen. Sucre campaigned in the weeks preceding the battle of Ayacucho, which has been called "The Yorktown of South America." In it also lies the rich sugar region of Abancay, and the celebrated ruins of Choqquequirau, which I visited on my last journey to Peru.

"Third: Mount Coropuna, a volcanic cone with a magnificent ice cap. Few people have ever heard of it, but some believe it to be the highest mountain in South America. Prof. Bandalier is inclined to the belief that it is over 23,000 feet high. If possible we shall climb the mountain. If not we shall content ourselves with determining its altitude instrumentally and making a good map of it. There are several villages near the mountain which offer an interesting field for the study of human geography.

"Fourth: About forty miles northwest of Mount Coropuna is Lake Parinacochas, which is practically unknown and unexplored. It is our plan to take along a folding canoe so as to be able to make a bathymetrical survey of the lake and a rough survey of its shores. We expect also to determine the latitude and longitude of various points.

"In conclusion, it is the object of the expedition to explore a portion of Peru which is not at present known to science. The amount and kind of information which we shall try to gather will be limited only by the number and the individual ability of the men who compose the expedition, and by the time. I hope that we shall be able to secure the necessary funds to pay the expenses of both a physician and a naturalist, the latter to make collections of flora and fauna for the Peabody Museum."

AFRICA

NAVIGATION ON THE UPPER NIGER. The Upper Niger has about 500 miles of navigation on the three rivers, Niger, Milo, and Tinkisso. The Milo is navigable from Kankan for 130 miles to its confluence with the Niger. About 130 miles of navigation on the Tinkisso connects Dinguira with Siguiri and the navigable reach of the Upper Niger itself extends from Kurussa to Bamako about 225 miles. The railroad from Bamako to Kulikoro circumvents the rapids in the river, above which there is 1,054 miles of navigation on the Middle Niger from Kulikoro to Ansongo for small boats the year around and for little steamers drawing not over three and one-half feet about six months; from July to January between Kulikoro and Mopti at the confluence of the Bani River; and from August to February between Mopti and Timbuktu; from December to the end of May between Timbuktu and Ansongo. The navigable reach of the Middle Niger is connected with the Senegal River by the railroad Kulikoro-Bamako-Kayes (372 miles). The direct line between the seaport of Dakar and Kayes at the head of navigation on the Senegal, is now being built, work having been begun in 1909 at the two extremities of the route. When this line is completed to Kayes, Dakar will be connected with the navigable Niger by 790 miles of railroad. (Auguste Chevalier, in *Bull.* Soc. Languedocienne de Géog., Tome 33, Deuxième et Troisième Trimestres, 1910).

THE BENUE COMPLETELY EXPLORED. Capt. Strümpel, in charge of the German interests in Adamaua, Cameroons, has surveyed the last unknown stretch of the Benue River, the largest tributary of the Niger. Flegel discovered the headwaters of the Benue north of Ngaundere in 1882, and in 1893 Passarge extended the survey up the river from Garua to Bubandjika. Strümpel has surveyed the stream between its headwaters and Passarge's farthest. It has taken sixty years to reveal the entire course of this large river.

HANS MEYER RETURNING TO GERMAN EAST AFRICA. Prof. Dr. Hans Meyer of Leipzig, the first explorer to reach the top of Mt. Kilimanjaro, will return this spring to German East Africa to investigate the Virunga volcanic region, north of Lake Kivu. This is the only region among the great lakes of Central Africa where active volcanoes are found. He will also study the German-Belgian Congo boundary regions in the neighborhood of Lakes Tanganika and Nyasa. (*Pet. Mitt.*, 57 Jahrg., März Heft, 1911, p. 137.)

EXPLORING THE LIBYAN WASTE IN AN AIRSHIP. According to *Petermanns Mitteilungen,* (57 Jahrg., März Heft, 1911, p. 137), the Prussian geologist Dr. L. Siegert will soon attempt to cross in an airship the vast unknown region in the Libyan desert between the Egyptian oases in the East and the great caravan route from Tripoli to Lake Chad in the West. Rohlfs in 1874 and 1879 and Nachtigal in 1870-71 crossed parts of this waste, carefully studying the regions along these routes. Dr. Siegert believes that he may cross this region from the Mediterranean to the Nile in about thirty hours and that this journey will be favored by the prevailing winds. It is doubtful however, if he will be able, in an air flight, to add much to what is already known. The prospects of the discovery of unknown oases are small.

TOPOGRAPHIC SURVEYS IN BRITISH EAST AFRICA. The *Annual Report* of the Survey Department of British East Africa, for the year ending March 31, 1910, says that trigonometrical work was extended northwards during the year from Mombasa to the Sabaki and for some distance up that river. The work was very arduous owing to the bush and forest that had to be cleared to permit observing. A beginning was made with triangulation over the Laikipiak Plateau. With the *Report,* are two provisional maps in colors, showing the areas covered by triangulation and by the topographical survey. The work of mapping this large province is making good progress considering the small force of topographers.

DESTRUCTION OF TELEGRAPH LINES BY GIRAFFES. On account of the repeated destruction of the telegraph line in the neighborhood of Sadani, German East Africa, the Government has authorized the killing of these animals in that region. Heretofore it has been illegal to shoot giraffes except within the two-mile limit on either side of telegraph lines. (*Deutsch Ostafrik. Zeit.,* No. 13, 1911.)

ASIA

THE RUSSIAN SCIENTIFIC EXPEDITION TO THE AMUR. The Commission that was sent to the basin of the Amur River by the St. Petersburg Committee on Colonization of the Far East, has completed its labors. The leader of the expedition, Mr. N. L. Gondatti, now Governor General of the Amur Province, studied not only the adaptability of the Amur region for farming enterprises but also investigated the forests and mineral resources and the prospects of fisheries. The best means of connecting the Trans-Baikal and the Amur region with the Government of Jakutsk by good roads is discussed in the report. The southern part of the Jakutsk territory is reported to be well adapted for cattle raising. As the Amur will be very useful as an export and import route it is very important that the bar at its mouth be removed.

AUSTRALIA

THE BANANA IN TROPICAL AUSTRALIA. Melbourne received in January, a consignment of bananas from the Cardwell District in the northern or tropical part of Queensland, which marks an important phase of the development of industry in that state. *United Empire* (March, 1911) says the fruit was grown by white labor, by Mr. P. T. Hogg, who two years ago, began to raise bananas, on Hinchenbrook Channel. His plantation comprises thirty acres. The most interesting fact relating to the shipment is that each bunch, instead of containing from twelve to fourteen dozen fruit, carried no less than twenty dozen, and each banana was larger than usual, measuring on an average, nine inches, plump and well formed. The fruit is of finer quality, than that received from the Chinese growers of Fiji. There are about 200 plants to the acre, and the gross returns per acre, amount to $350.

EUROPE

GREENWICH TIME ADOPTED IN FRANCE. Greenwich time has been adopted throughout France and Algeria. At midnight on Friday, March 10, all public clocks throughout the country were set back by the nine minutes and twenty-one seconds which represent the difference between the longitudes of Greenwich and Paris. Thus Greenwich mean time is now adopted for all practical purposes as the basis of what is known as "standard time" throughout the greater part of the civilized world.

This is no doubt due in the main to the unifying influence of science which sooner or later compels the whole world to adopt common standards of measurements for those things which men find it to their advantage to measure uniformly. But the Observatory of Paris and the meridian of Paris are not things easily dislodged from their established pride of place. It cannot have been without a sentimental pang—altogether legitimate and even laudable in itself—that France has allowed them to yield precedence to the Observatory and the meridian of another nation.—(London *Times, weekly edition,* March 17, 1911.)

SAINT-DIÉ'S CELEBRATION. The little city of Saint-Dié, France, has sometimes been referred to by historians as "the Godmother of America" because there, among the picturesque mountains of Vosges, was printed in 1507, the famous little treatise in Latin entitled "Cosmographiæ Introductio" by Waldseemüller, in which the name "America" appeared for the first time, (*Bulletin,* Vol. 34, p. 54, 1902). The City will celebrate this interesting fact and also inaugurate its new Chamber of Commerce, by an exhibition devoted to archæology, history, art and the industries of Vosges. The celebration will occur on June 3-5, when Ministers of the French Government and the Ambassador and Consul General of the United States and other officials will be present. The mayor of Saint Dié has invited delegations from various scientific societies of America to be present on this occasion.

POLAR

LATEST ANNOUNCEMENT OF FILCHNER'S PLANS. A note from Berlin on the latest development of the preparations for the Filchner Expedition says that his general object is to push as far south as possible, through Weddell Sea and towards the center of the Antarctic land mass or masses and especially to determine the relations between the eastern and western portions of the land and ascertain if water channels divide it into two or more masses. He expects to visit Coats Land, trace its coast as far south as possible and establish a base station on Coats Land or south of it, as a starting point for the sledge expedition and as the headquarters where scientific observations may be carried on for a year or more. The landing party will number eleven men, of whom seven will have charge of work at the station, while four will form the southern sledge party. If possible the ship will return north to continue its oceanographical work.

The scientific programme will include besides strictly geographical work, investigations in geology, oceanography, biology, meteorology, magnetism, etc. During the journey from Germany, special efforts will be made to add to our knowledge of the Atlantic sill, which is known to extend north and south for a great distance. Soundings will be made to establish the position of this subterranean rise, between 0° and 10° north. Lieut. Filchner has chosen as his scientific assistants, Dr. Barkow of the Royal Prussian Meteorological Institute as meteorologist; Dr. Seelheim, as geographer, Dr. Heim as geologist, Dr. Przybyllok for astronomical and terrestrial magnetic observations, and several others.

The ship which was purchased last Autumn in Norway, is a whaler built in 1905 of fir, oak and pitch pine, strengthened for ice navigation, and cased in greenheart. She is believed to be splendidly adapted for Polar work. Her commander will be Captain R. Vahsel, who was on the Gauss Expedition, and has had experience in ice work. Among the features of the equipment is an installation for wireless telegraphy, specially constructed motor cars, and both dogs and Manchurian ponies for sledge transport.

The main geographical objects of Filchner's Expedition are thus seen to be to determine the distribution of land and water, establish the coast line of the Antarctic Continent and study the conformation of the ice.

JAPANESE ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION. A Japanese Antarctic expedition has been organized and is supported by public subscription. The leader of the expedition is Lieut. Shirase, an ex-military officer, and the party consists of .twenty men, eight of whom are to accompany the leader on his sledge journey. The ship destined for the purpose is a sealer, and the name *Kainan-maru* (Exploring the South) was given to her by Admiral Togo before she left the Bay of Tokio on Nov. 29, 1910. She sailed first to New Zealand, reaching Wellington on Feb. 8, and leaving for the south on Feb. 11, after coaling and taking in provisions. The party will endeavor to find a suitable place along King Edward VII Land, whence they will start on a sledge journey to the Pole. The great, perhaps sole object of the expedition is to reach the Pole, and dogs are to be used in drawing the sledges. The funds available are very limited at present amounting to £10,000. Count Okuma, who is the head of the Association for financing the expedition, is earnestly endeavoring to add to this sum. (*Scott. Geogr. Mag.*, March, 1911, p. 151.)

RUSSIAN EXPEDITION TO NOVAYA ZEMLIA. A Russian expedition was successful last summer in circumnavigating the northern island of Novaya Zemlia in the *Queen Olga,* Capt. Sedov who, as stated in *Petermanns Mitteilungen* for December, had previously carried out surveys on the northern coast of Eastern Siberia. A statement has been made in the daily press, on the authority of Mr. Rusanof (apparently a member of the same expedition), that the open water found off the northern coast of the island proves that the Gulf Stream passes to the north of Novaya Zemlia. That such a statement can have little valid foundation (few if any scientific observations having been made during the rapid voyage round the island) seems sufficiently obvious and it appears that various Russian scientists, including General J. de Shokalsky, have pointed this out in the Russian papers. The experiences of various earlier voyagers would seem to show that the state of things described must be somewhat exceptional. The note in the *Mitteilungen* also mentions that the Governor of Archangel, Mr. J. W. Sosnovski, likewise visited Novaya Zemlia, for the purpose of forming a Russian settlement, and that several settlements of Norwegian sealers were found along the coast during the voyage of the *Queen Olga.* (*Geog. Journ.,* March, 1911, p. 322.)

EDUCATIONAL GEOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHY IN GERMANY AND IN THE UNITED STATES. Mrs. Martha K. Genthe, an associate editor of the *Bulletin,* who has returned to her old home in Germany has a short paper under the above title in the *Journal of Geography* (April, 1911). Her wide knowledge of geography teaching in both Germany and the United States gives special value to the paper of which the following abridgment is here given:

She considers as special opportunities which Germany offers towards the best possible results in the teaching of geography (1), the existence at every university of a special department of geography which is second to no other department and in some of the universities second to no university department in the world. Hence, there is a constant and regular supply of teachers of geography for all kinds of schools who are specialists in their line and who work incessantly for the betterment of geographical instruction; (2), the abundant supply of excellent maps and atlases for all kinds of schools. The influence of these conditions is that the map, not the text-book, is made the foundation of the lesson.

The study of geography is subordinate in those higher schools in which the classical languages are considered the only royal road to success. In the Oberreal Schule and the Real Schule however, geography is taught not only as a useful subject but as one which makes for culture. In the elementary schools the conditions are most favorable because the amount of time allotted to geography is the same as that devoted to the other sciences and it extends through the whole course.

Mrs. Genthe regards America as handicapped geographically because there is lack of general recognition of geography as a scientific study. The number of universities in which it is adequately represented is still small, hence, the teaching profession is not so well supplied with geographical specialists who can give weight to the argument in favor of better courses in geography. Many schools are compelled to employ teachers without even any pedagogical training, at whose hands geography fares poorly. Most of the school maps are rather poor works of cartographic art to say nothing of those in which this art is completely absent, so that the text plays a larger part in the lesson and there is constant danger of geography becoming a mere book study.

The cost should not stand in the way of providing better maps and no child should leave school without being able to use the topographic map. None but trained geographers should be employed at the high schools to teach geography, and there should be a three years' course in it for every high school, because the cultural value of geography increases in proportion to the age and maturity of the student. The same even more emphatically must be said of the College. If there is any foundation for the belief that geography is taught better in Germany than in America, it can be explained only through the better quality of the average teacher in Germany.

PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY

THE MAGNETIC SURVEY YACHT CARNEGIE. The *Carnegie* arrived at Cape Town on March 20. Since June last she has traveled about 1,400 miles in the Atlantic Ocean. Dr. Bauer left Vancouver on March 24 to make magnetic observations in the Samoan Islands during the total solar eclipse of April 28. He will meet the *Carnegie* at Colombo, Ceylon.

LARGE CITIES, WIND VELOCITY AND HYGIENE. That air temperatures in large cities differ somewhat from those recorded in the surrounding country has been known for some years, the details having been obtained through the careful investigations of Renou for Paris, of Hellmann and Perlewitz for Berlin, and of others. Within the cities the mean temperatures average from 1° to 2°, more or less, too high. Recently, another effect of the increasing obstruction offered by large cities to the movement of the air has been brought out in the case of Berlin. In that city, in 20 years, the wind velocity has decreased from about 12 miles (19.4 km.) an hour to about 8 miles (12.9 km.) an hour. This notable reduction in velocity, which is discussed in *Das Wetter,* 1910, No. 10, shows that the ventilation of streets and of houses by the natural movement of the atmosphere is less effective than it used to be in Berlin. The same thing is likely to be true of other growing cities. That this may have consequences of importance from the point of view of public hygiene is clear. The question, "how far can man influence climate?" is an interesting one. Here, certainly, is a case where man is bringing about a noticeable change in an element of climate which is of great importance to the public health. R. DEC. WARD.

THE GEOLOGIC WORK OF ANTS. In the *Bull. of the Geol. Soc. of America* (Vol. 21, 1910, pp. 449-496), Prof. J. C. Branner discusses the importance of ants as geologic agents, particularly in tropical zones, basing his remarks partly on his own observations in Brazil, and partly upon the general literature of the subject. He shows that they are extraordinarily abundant, that they are exceedingly destructive of certain forms of vegetation, and that certain species even attack man. Some species are beneficial as scavengers, but others seem to play the rôle of destructive agents solely. Prof. Branner says: "Save in the cities, they are almost omnipresent. To the housekeeper they are not only never-sleeping pests, but they are bold and defiant robbers or sneak thieves, as circumstances require, and they cannot be ignored. To the planters they are veritable plagues—they destroy the growing crops as completely as if they had been burned over. They do not wipe out a field of grain in a few hours as completely as do the locust swarms of Argentina, and then disappear, but they stay with their work right alongside of the crops, and in time they destroy them no less certainly. Unlike locusts, they do not come and depart, but they stay right in one circumscribed area all their lives. . . Nor can their importance be regarded as whimsical in any sense; indeed, I am convinced that they are social and even national factors that are not to be ignored."

As purely geological agents ants perform work of several kinds. In the first place they penetrate the earth in various directions and to a considerable depth. Branner mentions one case in which he found ant burrows at a depth of 2.1 meters, and refers to a case of a burrow found at a depth of 3.5 meters. These tunnels ramify the ground over great areas, and Branner says, "I have myself seen fumes blown into one opening and issuing from others as much as 300 meters away." The material excavated in the course of the burrowing is brought to the air, and therefore exposed to weathering, and piled in mounds, some of which are 5 meters high, and 16 or 17 meters in diameter. The white ants, or termites, perform work of a kind similar to that of the true ants, though with notable differences which he points out. They do no direct harm to crops and animals as the true ants do, though they interfere with agriculture by the encumbrance of the ground with "big hard rock like nests." They also do damage by destroying "wood used in the construction of fences, houses, bridges, and furniture, and they sometimes burrow into books and papers."

The openings made in the soil by the ants aid the processes of weathering by permitting freer circulation of air and carbon dioxide, by bringing large quantities of soil and sub-soil to the surface, by opening up passageways for circulating water, and by taking organic matter under ground where it aids in rock disintegration. Prof. Branner makes a calculation on which, however, he does not attempt to place complete confidence, comparing the work done over a given surface by ants in Brazil and earthworms in England. According to this calculation the total amount of earth brought to the surface in 100 years over an area of one hectare (10,000 square meters) is 2,598,500 kilograms in the case of earthworms in England, and 3,226,250 kilograms in the case of Brazilian ants. From his general study of the subject Branner concludes, "Although the data available are defective, we seem to be warranted in concluding that ants and termites are quite as important geological agents in tropical America as are the earthworms of temperate zones. They are also factors of great importance from an agricultural, economic, and social point of view."

R. S. TARR.

OBITUARY

SAMUEL FRANKLIN EMMONS. Dr. Emmons died in Washington on March 28. He was one of the foremost geologists of the United States. Although he had been in ill-health for some time, he continued until recently his duties as geologist of the United States Geological Survey with which he had been connected since 1867. He was born on March 29, 1841, was a graduate of Harvard in 1861, and studied at the School of Mines in Paris, 1862-64 and at Freiburg, 1864-65. He was associated with the geological exploration of the 40th parallel, in 1867-77, was a member of many scientific bodies both in this country and abroad, and wrote many scientific papers and monographs.

J. HAMPDEN ROBB. Mr. Robb, a Vice-President of this Society and for many years a member of its Council died on Jan. 21, 1911, at the age of 65 years. The Council at its meeting on March 16, placed upon record in behalf of the Society its appreciation of his worth and of the great loss which his death has brought to his family, friends and colleagues. "He showed continued care for the welfare of the Society, and by his endeavors and earnest character did much to promote its interests and encourage the interest of others."

PERSONAL

PROF. C. H. HITCHCOCK. The trustees of Dartmouth College have voted that Prof. Charles Henry Hitchcock be made Hall Professor of Geology Emeritus. He retired last year on the Carnegie Foundation Fund. A paper by Prof. Hitchcock "The Volcano Kilauea" appeared in the *Bulletin,* (Vol. 41, pp. 684-91, 1909). In the same year he issued his book, "The Volcanoes of Hawaii."

DR. ARRHENIUS. Dr. Svante Arrhenius, the distinguished physicist of Sweden and Director of the Nobel Institute, Stockholm, is at present in this country. He lectured, on March 25th, before the Washington Academy of Sciences and the Philosophical Society of Washington, on "The Siderial Cultus."

PROF. J. PAUL GOODE. Prof. Goode of The University of Chicago has accepted an invitation from the Department of Education of the Philippine Government to deliver a series of lectures to the Teachers' Assembly at Bagino in May.

DR. GRENFELL. The Council of the Royal Geographical Society of London has awarded to Dr. Wilfred T. Grenfell the Murchison Grant in recognition of his contributions to the accuracy of the charts of the Labrador Coast and to our knowledge of the people and the resources of Labrador.